

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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ATTORNEY GENERAL
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TO : The Attorney General

DATE: October 29, 1976

FROM : *Curtis* Director, FBI

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; SUSPECTED BOMBING OF
CUBANA AIRLINES DC-8 NEAR BARBADOS,
WEST INDIES, OCTOBER 6, 1976
NEUTRALITY MATTERS - CUBA - WEST INDIES

Reference is made to my memorandum dated October 22, 1976, captioned as above, wherein you were informed of the extent of the casual relationship between Special Agent Joseph S. Leo of this Bureau, Legal Attache, Caracas, Venezuela, and individuals arrested as suspects in captioned bombing. Reference is also made to my memorandum dated October 26, 1976, same caption, which concerned the matter of an Inspector from this Headquarters traveling to Caracas with the concurrence of the Department of State to interview Mr. Leo and review pertinent files of the Legat Office, Caracas.

For your further assistance, there is set forth below additional pertinent information reported to FBI Headquarters on October 26, 1976, by Legat, Caracas.

Hernan Ricardo Lozano and Freddy Lugo, citizens of Venezuela, were arrested by the police of Trinidad and Tobago on October 7, 1976, on suspicion of implication in the crash of the Cuban-operated aircraft off the coast of Barbados on October 6, 1976. Hernan Ricardo Lozano came to the attention of Legat, Caracas, during the summer of 1975 when he contacted Legat on behalf of the then Director, Venezuelan Directorate of Intelligence and Preventive Services (DISIP), Dr. Pedro Torres Agudo, for the purpose of assisting in expediting the issuance of a visa to a family member of Dr. Torres Agudo. Ricardo Lozano

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cc to E Propper
by hand
afg



5010-110

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Declassified Case: NW- 55808
Date: 11-02-2018

The Attorney General

returned shortly thereafter to express his appreciation for that assistance and he recontacted Legat, Caracas, on approximately three other occasions relating to visa information. In December, 1975, Ricardo Lozano telephoned Legat and extended to him a social invitation, which was declined. Ricardo Lozano was not seen or heard from again by Legat until September 30, 1976, when he appeared at the Legat Office, Caracas, at which time he requested assistance for himself to obtain a visa to the U. S. On that occasion, Ricardo Lozano claimed that he had a photographic assignment in Jamaica for the magazine "Vision" and that he planned a two-day stopover in Puerto Rico before returning to Venezuela. On his visa application Ricardo Lozano indicated his occupation as a graphics reporter and industrial investigator. He listed his employer as Investigaciones Comerciales E Industriales (ICI) and, in that connection, he produced a letter of employment signed by the ICI owner, Luis Posada Carriles. A visa was issued to Ricardo Lozano on October 1, 1976. Hernan Ricardo Lozano was never a paid informant or source of the Legat, Caracas, Office.

Luis Posada Carriles has been identified as a former Division Chief of DISIP who resigned from that agency in 1974 and established ICI, a private investigative agency. Legat Leo stated that he had very slight contact with Posada even when Posada was an official of DISIP. Legat Leo and Posada met perhaps no more than three times since 1971. On June 10, 1976, Posada appeared at the Legat Office to ask what, if any, interest the FBI had in Juan Carlo Bordoni. Posada was thereupon told that Bordoni was a fugitive from justice and that efforts were being made to extradite Bordoni to the U. S. from Venezuela to answer charges of bank fraud in connection with the collapse of the Franklin National Bank. Posada stated that in that case he wished to advise Legat Leo that Bordoni had hired two ICI operatives to act as armed bodyguards in his home. That information was subsequently provided to Venezuelan police who were involved in the expected arrest of Bordoni. It is pointed out that Luis Posada Carriles was never a paid informant or source of the Legat, Caracas, Office.

The Attorney General

Legat Leo further reported that Freddy Lugo, the second Venezuelan citizen arrested in connection with captioned matter, is not known to him. Venezuelan press reports identify Lugo as a journalist and photographer. At the time of his arrest, Lugo reportedly had on his person a piece of paper bearing the name and telephone number of Legat Leo. It is not known to Legat Leo how his name came into the possession of Lugo. Further, Lugo has never been a paid informant or source of the Legat, Caracas, Office.

The police of Trinidad and Tobago made available Xerox copies of papers and documents which they found among the personal effects of Hernan Ricardo Lozano and Freddy Lugo. An examination of those papers and documents revealed that it appeared that the piece of paper bearing Mr. Leo's name was taken from a notebook consisting of approximately 30 pages which was found in the possession of Hernan Ricardo Lozano. The names of more than 170 individuals were inscribed in that notebook.

With regard to Ricardo Morales Navarrete, Legat Leo pointed out that he is currently employed as a Division Chief of DISIP. Morales Navarrete was formerly affiliated with a Special Investigations Unit, Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the immediate supervision of Orlando Garcia Vasquez, Minister Counsellor. Morales Navarrete arrived in Venezuela from Miami, Florida, in approximately 1974, having been summoned by Orlando Garcia Vasquez, a confidant of Carlos Andres Perez, President of Venezuela. Legat Leo maintained contact with both Morales Navarrete and Garcia Vasquez in connection with official matters. Those individuals arranged the arrest and deportation of several fugitives wanted by Federal and local law enforcement authorities in the U. S.

Legat Leo has advised that neither Ricardo Morales Navarrete nor Orlando Garcia Vasquez were ever paid informants or sources of the Legat, Caracas, Office. It is pointed out, however, that Ricardo Morales Navarrete was a paid informant of our Miami Office at various times between 1961 and 1975, reporting information of a general criminal nature as well as information involving both pro-and anti-Castro activities.

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The Attorney General

With regard to the matter of my sending an Inspector from FBI Headquarters to Caracas, Venezuela, to interview Legat Leo, previously referred to herein, I have decided to hold such travel in abeyance because of the existing tension in the Caribbean area and, in particular, the political situation in Venezuela. In the same light, I am not going to instruct Legat Leo to travel to Washington, D. C., at this time.

The information contained herein is also being provided to the Secretary of State.

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
- 1 - Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr.
Office of Professional Responsibility